

issues

Message from the State Veterinarian

The fact that Indiana agriculture is an essential part of this state's economy comes as no surprise to anyone: The potential impact of a terrorist attack against the industry is staggering. One study puts that cost as high as \$5 billion a year in lost production. Considering how a major event would reverberate across the state's economy—impacting jobs in rural communities, transportation, processing, and wholesale and retail operations, we at BOAH strive to be on the forefront of protecting Indiana's agriculture.

When the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued funds to shore-up readiness of critical infrastructures, CTASC (Counter-Terrorism and Security Council), at the request of the State Board of Animal Health and Purdue University, agreed to pass along \$1.5 million of Indiana's monies for agriculture. Those federal-sourced dollars will be split between Purdue, which is coordinating efforts on behalf of crop-based agriculture and working to improve carcass disposal options in Indiana, and BOAH.

Finally, after more than a year of planning, BOAH has received the funds to move forward. The money will be allocated amongst five critical mission areas: increasing intelligence and warning (surveillance) about animal health emergencies; protecting key assets and infrastructure; defending against a major event through training of public and private veterinarians; preparedness and response; and technology initiatives.

This translates into an opportunity for private veterinary practitioners, of all backgrounds and specialties, to get involved as part of specially trained teams, called ASERTs (Animal Surveillance and Emergency Response Team). Ten teams of six veterinarians each will be based in regions throughout Indiana. The ASERT program will provide the opportunity for Continuing Education credit. The program also provides a great opportunity for veterinarians to take an active role with their local emergency planners, to develop an emergency plan that best fits their communities.

While food animal veterinarians are an important part of the program, small animal and mixed practice professionals are also key to the success of the program. In today's environment of emerging disease, particularly zoonotics, we need to remember that **all** veterinarians play an important role in protecting human and animal health. So everyone should consider this opportunity and take time to learn.

To get more information or apply online, visit the BOAH web site at www.boah.in.gov, before June 1, 2005.

**ASERT
Applications
Online
Apply
Now**
www.boah.in.gov

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BOAH Board Actions

DURING THEIR regular meeting, Board members took the following actions:

- Adopted a new rule to establish procedures for importing horses from contagious equine metritis (CEM) regions to approved CEM quarantine facilities including quarantine and testing procedures (see equine).
- Adopted a rule to require tuberculosis testing for sexually intact female cattle of dairy breeds, including dairy cross breeds, 6 months of age and older beginning June 1, 2006. (see Cattle/Ruminant for more details)
- Approved first readings of three proposals that will be considered again for a final vote after public hearings at the April 21 meeting:
 - Establishing prem ID system;
 - Update dairy regulations (see Dairy for more);
 - Update rules on importing hunter-harvested cervid carcasses and parts.

Meat & Poultry

MEAT & Poultry Inspection Division staff has a direct impact on small business in Indiana every day. During 2004, Indiana's state-inspected establishments slaughtered under inspection more than 115,000-head of livestock and poultry. Custom-exempt establishments slaughtered more than 61,600-head as well.

Companion Animal

THE COMPENDIUM of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control for 2005 includes a number of changes. One of these provides an option to vaccinate an unvaccinated, quarantinable species either one month before release or at the time of the bite. The animals must still be confined and observed for six months following the bite from a potential rabies suspect.

A WISCONSIN teenager diagnosed with rabies has survived infection. The teen received no post-exposure prophylaxis prior to diagnosis and treatment. Still unknown is if permanent neurological problems will result.

Cattle/Ruminant

TUBERCULOSIS SEEMS to be re-emerging, resulting in a number of states requiring TB tests on all incoming dairy cattle, regardless of states status. States having lost their USDA TB-Free status include Texas, New Mexico, and California, all are Modified Accredited Free. Michigan holds split status: The upper portion is Modified Accredited, the lower is Modified Accredited Advanced.

BOARD MEMBERS adopted a new rule to increase bovine tuberculosis testing requirements for cattle and bison entering Indiana. Beginning June 1, 2005, all sexually intact females of dairy breeds or crossbreds, six months old or older, originating from any state/zone, must test negative for TB within 60 days prior to entry. In addition, other types of cattle and bison older than 18 months moving from modified accredited advanced states/zones (currently most of Michigan, California, Texas and Arizona) must test negative within 60 days prior to entry. Regardless of age, the animal must possess official identification from its originating state.

Steers and spayed heifers older than six months of age coming from modified accredited states/zones (currently only in NE Michigan) must test negative within

60 days. Sexually intact animals from these regions must originate from a herd that is negative under a whole-herd test within the previous 12 months, in addition to an individual negative test within the previous 60 days.

This rule provides for some exceptions, such as animals moving directly to an approved slaughter establishment, originating from accredited herds, or moving within an approved commuter agreement. This rule applies to all exhibition animals moved into and out of Indiana within 10 days, regardless of breed. All animals must be identified and moved on a certificate of veterinary inspection and permit.

CHRONIC WASTING disease continues to be a concern for the division. Five farmed white-tailed deer in Oneida County, NY tested positive for the brain wasting disease in April.

USDA IS currently working on a national plan for BSE testing. USDA has approved the Bio-Rad rapid test for BSE. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory will confirm inconclusive tests. USDA has approved 12 regional labs for the rapid testing. Currently the United States has no positives and no pending inconclusive tests.

Scrapie

SHEEP OWNERS can now be reimbursed for some codon testing within their flocks. Under a new component of Indiana's scrapie program, test costs for up to five sheep (rams are preferred, but ewes can qualify) will be reimbursed. Producers must be pre-approved by BOAH before tests are run and approved labs must be used. Contact BOAH at 317-227-0318 or animalhealth@boah.in.gov for more information.

Dairy

THE FIRST reading of proposed a rule was approved at the Jan. 20 board meeting. The change would allow goat milk to be collected at least once every seven days. Goat milk can be collected weekly, as the chemistry of the product hinders spoilage. The change will benefit producers who are at an economic disadvantage compared to neighboring states where daily pickup is available. This rule also updates the dairy regulations to reflect the changes in the 2003 version of the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

Disaster Preparedness/ASERT

WITH FUNDS approved, BOAH is finally moving forward on the Animal Surveillance and Emergency Response Teams (ASERT). The application for ASERT is currently online at www.boah.in.gov. BOAH is encouraging veterinarians in all types of practice with an interest in emergency management and foreign animal diseases to apply. The program will provide an excellent opportunity for continuing education credit. ASERT provides a chance for team members to take an active role in the county emergency response plans for the counties in their areas. The teams will be chosen by mid-summer in preparation for a two-day training conference in Indianapolis. Questions can be directed to Dr. Marianne Ash at mash@boah.in.gov. **Deadline to apply is May 16, 2005.**

Swine

IT'S OFFICIAL, the United States has achieved Stage V (Free) status in the State-Federal-Industry Pseudorabies Eradication Program. At a meeting of the Control Board, the last three states in Stage IV (Florida, Pennsylvania and Texas) were granted Free status.

REMINDER: EXHIBITORS are no longer required to have their hogs tested for pseudorabies to be exhibited in Indiana. Swine may be shown at county 4-H fairs as well as the Indiana State Fair with a valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection written by a licensed and accredited veterinarian.

Avian

DR. MICHEAL Kopp has been meeting with producers throughout Indiana to educate them about biosecurity and improving programs in the avian industry. Dr. Kopp has also been participating in updating National Poultry Improvement Plan.

Equine

BOAH'S BOARD has approved a rule to allow a CEM (Contagious Equine Metritis) quarantine facility. The Equine Advisory committee will finalize operational rules for the quarantine facilities. This facility, being developed by the Cole family of Wakarusa, will provide more affordable import opportunities. Currently, the nearest CEM quarantine facility is located in Kentucky; this quarantine facility will be the first of its kind in Indiana.

SPRING IS time to start thinking about West Nile virus for 2005. Annual vaccination is key to controlling the virus. West Nile cases declined in 2004 to nine horses and two dogs. These numbers testify to the effectiveness of the the vaccination program.

THE STATE health department is reminding Hoosiers of its plan for testing dead birds. Concerned citizens should call the local health department to report these birds for possible testing. Currently the Indiana State Health Department is only testing bluejays, crows and raptors. Any questions concerning West Nile virus may be addressed to Dr. Sandi Norman at snorman@boah.in.gov or www.boah.in.gov.



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